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Africanisms in National Park Service Cultural Resources Programs

This list represents a compilation of the properties documented and/or recognized by the National Park Service's cultural resources programs (National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering Record) as possessing Africanisms. It is not exhaustive, but the list points out that there are dozens of properties already documented and recognized as associated with African cultural heritage. Additional investigation will likely yield more entries.

The National Register of Historic Places

The following National Register properties are associated with Africanisms. This list is based on the publication, *African American Historic Places*, Beth Savage, ed. (Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 1994) and the files of the National Register of Historic Places.

Each entry is listed by state, followed by a brief statement of how it is associated with Africanisms.

Arkansas

Hampton Springs Cemetery (Carthage, Dallas County) contains black sections that illustrate African antecedents.

Delaware

Smyrna Historic District (Smyrna, Kent County) documents the African presence since the mid-nineteenth century in a small black settlement.

Florida

MacFarlane Homestead Historic District (Coral Gables, Dade County) is a traditionally African American residential neighborhood within Coral Gables that is populated with shotgun houses, ca. 1933 and after, among other vernacular forms.

Georgia

Ashby Street Shotgun Row Historic District (Americus, Sumter County) is located in an African American neighborhood called McCoy Hill, which contains three shotgun houses that date from ca. 1908-1912.

Behavior Cemetery (McIntosh County) is an African American burial ground on Sapelo Island associated with the settlement of Raccoon Bluff and Hog Hammock, the sole African American community still resident on Sapelo Island. The cemetery is over 100 years old and is likely to yield information on African American burial practices.

Bethlehem Historic District (Augusta, Richmond County) is an African American neighborhood of Augusta with ca. 1870s shotgun and double shotgun houses and swept yards.

Brightwell Shotgun Row (Athens, Clarke County) contains six shotgun houses in an unusual back-to-back formation in the Newtown section of Athens, a traditionally African American neighborhood.

Covington Historic District (Newton County) includes shotgun houses and swept yards in the African American neighborhood of Covington.

Dawson Historic District (Terrell County) is an African American neighborhood with shotgun houses and swept yards.

Hog Hammock Historic District (McIntosh County) is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with traditional cultural properties and Gullah language and traditions. It is considered to be one of the last viable coastal black communities in Georgia.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District (Atlanta, Fulton County) in Sweet Auburn is an African American neighborhood with shotgun houses, in addition to the King birth home.

New Corinth Baptist Church (Americus, Sumter County) is a 1884 African American church and cemetery. Burials are in cement crypts without an overall organization pattern and could yield information on African burial practices.

Rocksprings Shotgun Row Historic District (part of Shotgun Houses of Athens-Clarke County MPS, Athens, Clarke County) contains six shotgun houses in a row on Rocksprings Street, ca. 1925.

Sand Hills Historic District (Augusta, Richmond County) developed as an African American residential neighborhood with, among other forms, shotgun houses and swept yards.

Indiana

Old Richmond Historic District (Richmond, Wayne County) was once called “Little Africa.” It was heart the of Richmond’s free black community.

Kentucky

Harrison Historic District (Franklin, Simpson County) is an African American neighborhood that contains shotgun houses, among other vernacular forms.

Smoketown Historic District (Louisville, Jefferson County) is an African American neighborhood in Louisville that possesses shotgun houses, among other vernacular residential forms.

Louisiana

Congo Square (New Orleans, Orleans Parish) is a reflection of African heritage. This was where Sunday slave dances were held and African dances and music were performed.

Melrose Plantation (Melrose, Natchitoches Parish) was owned by a formerly enslaved woman, Marie Therese Coincoin. It contains architecture designed by transplanted Africans for their use.

Massachusetts

Parting Ways Archeological District (Plymouth, Plymouth County) was a settlement of emancipated Africans during the late eighteenth century and includes remains of housing types and gravesites that have West African roots.

Prince Hall Mystic Cemetery (Arlington, Middlesex County) is the last extant cemetery associated with Prince Hall Masons. Prince Hall Masons was formed in 1775 in Boston as the first African American Masonic group in the United States. The cemetery was dedicated in 1868 and may yield archeological information on African burial practices and how African Americans influenced Masonic burial practices.

Mississippi

Holy Family Catholic Church Historic District (Natchez, Adams County) is an African American neighborhood with shotgun houses, among other vernacular and high style forms.

Woodlawn Historic District (Natchez, Adams County) is an African American neighborhood with shotgun houses.

New Jersey

Gethsemane Cemetery (Little Ferry, Bergen County) was founded in 1860 for Hackensack's African American community. Archeological studies may yield information on African and African American burial practices.

New York

[The] African-American Cemetery (Montgomery, Orange County) is a slave and African American cemetery.

Mount Moor African-American Cemetery (Clarkstown, Rockland County) is an African American cemetery that dates to the mid-nineteenth century.

Tobias C. Ten Eyck House and Cemeteries (Coeymans, Albany County) is a plantation with ca. 1790 slave cemetery, subsequently used by the local African American population.

North Carolina

Ayden Historic District (Ayden, Pitt County) includes shotgun houses in community's black neighborhoods.

Puerto Rico

Manati Municipality Hacienda Azucarera La Esperanza (Manati, Manati Municipality) was Puerto Rico's wealthiest sugar plantation. Today, it is an archeological site that illustrates the life and culture of aboriginal people and its colonization and settlement by people of European and African descent.

South Carolina

Chicora Wood Plantation (Georgetown vicinity, Georgetown County) was a rice-producing plantation during South Carolina's rice boom. It served as the home plantation for R.F.W. Allston's rice producing complex, producing 1.5 million pounds yearly of rice by 1860. The plantation contains outbuildings fashioned according to African cultural practices and earthworks for a system of rice planting of West African origin.

Daufuskie Island Historic District (Hilton Head, Beaufort County) is one of southernmost Sea Islands, accessible only by boat. It is significant for its first settlement 1805-1842 and extant tabby slave huts. The second settlement occurred during Reconstruction. It is significant for its home to "shouts" with African traditional antecedents and Maryfield Cemetery with African traditional burial practices.

Eddings Point Community Praise House (Frogmore, Beaufort County) is the central place in religious and social lives of black Sea Islanders. It includes buildings characteristic of the "vernacular praise house architectural form" and home to shouts.

Mary Jenkins Community Praise House (Frogmore, Beaufort County) is a place where shouts were held.

Trapp and Chandler Pottery Site (Kirksey, Greenwood County) is an antebellum pottery factory employing free and enslaved African Americans who influenced manufacturing processes.

Tennessee

Bailey Graveyard (Commerce vicinity, Wilson County) is a mid-nineteenth and twentieth century cemetery with African American burials that could yield information on African burial practices.

Texas

Freedmen's Town Historic District (Houston, Harris County) includes a number of shotgun houses and is known as the "Mother Ward for Black Houston."

Queen City Heights Historic District (Dallas, Dallas County) includes a ca. 1915-45 residential neighborhood with shotgun houses.

Wyatt Street Shotgun House Historic District (Waxahachie, Ellis County) is a row of small, single-family dwellings dating from ca. 1918 in Waxahachie's historically black neighborhood. The house plans are attributed to African roots.

Virgin Islands

Christiansted Historic District (Christiansted, St. Croix) is the site of the earliest colonization of U.S. Virgin Islands where enslaved Africans and free blacks played a major role in the design and construction of buildings and structures in the area. It includes the "Free Gut" residential community for free African Americans.

Virginia

Holbrook-Ross Street Historic District (Danville Independent City) is a residential area that includes shotgun houses.

Zion Poplars Baptist Church (Gloucester, Gloucester County) is an African American church and cemetery built by former enslaved Africans in 1894. The location of the church may have been chosen based upon beliefs derived from West African religious practices.

National Historic Landmarks

The following National Historic Landmark properties are associated with Africanisms.

Each entry is listed by state and includes a brief statement of what makes it an Africanism.

New York

[The] African Burial Ground (New York, New York County) is an urban burial ground used ca. 1712-1785 and contains remains of some of the earliest generations of Africans in America. It has potential to yield important information about African Americans in the eighteenth century.

South Carolina

[The] Stono River Slave Rebellion Site (Rantowles, Charleston County) is the location of one of the most serious slave insurrections in U.S. history. Reports indicate the rebels were led by enslaved Angolans and adhered to Central African martial practices, due possibly to Central African kinship bonds.

The Historic American Buildings Survey

The following Historic American Buildings Survey properties are associated with Africanisms.

Each entry is listed by state and includes a brief statement of what makes it an Africanism.

District of Columbia

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church (Georgetown, District of Columbia) was formed in 1814. Known as the "Ark" or the "Meeting House," the church had free and enslaved members who would have been only one or two generations removed from Africa. References in the records of the church to enslaved Africans having "gone home" (euphemism for death) is consistent with Igbo ideology. The Igbo, from present-day Nigeria, were the predominant enslaved ethnic group in the Chesapeake area.

Kentucky

Kuntz Shotgun House (Louisville, Jefferson County) was built between 1889 and 1891 and is representative of a two-story "camelback" style shotgun, a more recent modification of the vernacular architectural style.

Louisiana

Melrose Plantation (Melrose, Natchitoches Parish) was owned by a formerly enslaved woman, Marie Therese Coincoin. It contains buildings designed by transplanted Africans for their use. (Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places)

Massachusetts

African Baptist Society Church (Nantucket, Nantucket County) is the oldest remaining building in Nantucket associated with people from West Africa. The building is located in a neighborhood called Newtown, on land purchased by the African Baptist Society in 1826 for \$10.50. The section of Newtown where the church resides formerly was known as “Guinea.”

Virginia

Poplar Forest (Forest vicinity, Bedford County) is Thomas Jefferson’s other major land holding in Virginia, aside from Monticello. It holds archeological information that documents the continuation of African dietary, agricultural, and mercantile practices among slave population. The majority of the slave population was no more

than one or two generations removed from African soil. (Property is designated as a National Historic Landmark)

The Historic American Engineering Record

The following Historic American Engineering Record property is associated with Africanisms.

The entry is listed by state and includes a brief statement of what makes it an Africanism.

Louisiana

Laurel Valley Sugar Plantation, Shotgun Quarters (Thibodaux, LaFourche Parish) were built as a part of the larger plantation. There are 26 shotgun houses in total, which represent vernacular architecture with African origins. (Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.)

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